

King

“Let Your Voice Ring”

up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.” From the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. From that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be able to live the truth and attain the goal of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

Georgia, whose governor’s lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be able to join with the South. And black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and walk together as sisters. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see that His salvation is near. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a path of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free at last.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the peaks of Mount Baldy in California! Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

From every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when the sons of the South and the sons of the North, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: “Free at last, free at last, God Almighty, we are free at last!”

The District of Columbia
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission
Presents
The 19th Annual
King Holiday Celebration
Thursday, January 15, 2004
6:00 p.m.

University of the District of Columbia
4200 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Building 46
Washington, DC

Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

